



April 2, 2018

Carmelia Strickland
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration for Native Americans
330 C Street, SW.
4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Strickland,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly wishes to express support for the Petersburg Indian Association's (PIA) application for funding from ANA under the Social and Economic Development Strategies for Alaska-SEDS-AK opportunity. This project will develop a Comprehensive Strategy for the PIA to meet the needs of the Tribal citizens, and the Strategy will be developed through a process of citizen engagement. This project will clearly establish and quantify the most pressing needs of the Tribal citizens, and then use this information to develop a Comprehensive Strategy that will become a living document that is continuously updated to guide the efforts of PIA. This Comprehensive Strategy is required for PIA to effectively serve the needs of the community, and to meet the Tribe's long-term goal of ensuring a vibrant Tribal community that will attract and retain Tribal citizens.

Our community has experienced an outmigration of Tribal citizens, losing over 48% of its Tribal population over the past two decades. A robust process of Tribal citizen engagement has identified: i) that there is a dire need for PIA to build organizational capacity and programs to address key priorities of the community to reverse the trend of outmigration, and ii) that PIA should develop a Comprehensive Strategy to develop these.

We are fully supportive of PIA's application and of this effort and strongly encourage you to fund this application which will promote economic and social self-sufficiency for our Tribal community. Thank you for your consideration of this project and application.

Sincerely,

Mark Jensen
Mayor

Borough Administration

PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833 – Phone (907) 772-4425 Fax (907)772-3759

www.petersburgak.gov